



Missouri

The EMSC Program: Taking Action, Saving Lives

The federal Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program supports projects in the states to expand and improve emergency medical services for children who need treatment for life threatening illnesses or injuries. The program has funded pediatric emergency care improvement initiatives in every state, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. Some examples of cutting-edge work underway with support from the EMSC program are projects to: develop emergency care educational and training programs for school officials and staff; design national, evidence-based quality measures for assessing care to children who have suffered serious injuries; and ensure that all state disaster plans address pediatric needs.

Emergency Medical Care Needs of Children - Missouri

The number 1 and 2 leading causes of injury deaths in children ages 1 – 18 in Missouri are unintentional MV traffic fatalities and homicide with a firearm.

Missouri has 3 level I pediatric specific trauma centers. In 2003, over 500,000 children under the age of 15 were admitted to an Emergency Department somewhere in the state. 26.3% of these children were seen for injury or poisoning.

Severe asthma and respiratory distress are the most common emergencies for pediatric patients, representing nearly one-third of all hospitalizations among children under the age of 15 years. Respiratory infections and asthma represent 27% of all Emergency Department visits in children under the age of 15 in Missouri.

Current Grant

- Full-Time State EMSC Coordinator
- Implementation of Missouri Ambulance Reporting System (MARS), an electronic reporting system for the ambulance services that respond to scenes and provide care to injured and ill children

Previous EMSC Grant Accomplishments

- **Implementation Grants 1991 – State of Missouri in Collaboration with Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, Kansas City Mercy Children's Hospital, and St. Louis Children's Hospital**
 - EMS and community ED staff education (PALS and Emergency Nursing Education Modules provided across the state.)
 - Pediatric Rehabilitation Education Program provided across the state – increase awareness of unique rehab needs of children – prior to program on 1 pediatric rehab center in St. Louis, within 2 years post educational session 4 other sites offer comprehensive programs or major components of pediatric rehab.
- **Enhancement Grants 1994 - Cardinal Glennon and St. Louis Children's**
 - EMSC crosses the Mississippi River – EMSC extended into Southern Illinois
 - Physician office preparedness – PALS courses offered to Physicians
 - Pediatric Emergency Nursing Education (ENPC) provided addressing the unique care needs of children
- **Targeted Issues Grants 1994**
 - Psychological first aid for children experiencing violence – Kansas City Mercy Children's Hospital
 - The use of Ketamine for invasive procedures in the ED – St. Louis Children's



- **Partnership Grant 1998 – 2001, A 2-part injury prevention initiative -Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital**

- Part 1: “Safe Days” – training for prehospital providers, firefighters and public health nurses focusing on childcare injury prevention education.
- Part 2: “1st Steps in Prevention of Childhood Injuries” – a pediatric injury prevention program presented by prehospital providers, firefighters and public health nurses for childcare workers in their community

Partnership Grant 2000 – 2003 – Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital

- The development of an internet website version of “Pediatric Advanced Life Support” (PALS)

Targeted Issues Grants 2002

- “Just Ask” – Development of a Model for Screening for Intimate Partner Violence and Assessing the Impact on Children – Kansas City Mercy
- Development of Evidence Based Guidelines for treatment of Pediatric Dehydration – St. Louis Children’s
- Establishing a model to enhance pediatric resident’s understanding of issues impacting pediatric emergency care. – St. Louis Children’s Hospital

Partnerships

Partnerships between the state agency Department Health and Senior Services/Unit of EMS and all three of the Level I pediatric trauma centers in the state, as well as adult trauma centers that provide stabilization and transfer of severely injured and ill children. The state trauma systems/EMSC coordinator also participates on the Injury Prevention Advisory Council. The EMSC pediatric council meets monthly and is currently working on methods to standardize pediatric equipment on all ambulances, ground and air for the entire state.

For Further Information:

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Missouri EMSC Program Website <http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/EMS/Emsc.html>

Federal EMSC Program Website: <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/emsc>